

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

SAB-01 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 091135Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6084

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI REACTIONS TO SADAT'S APRIL 3 APRIL SPEECH

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

REF: (A) CAIRO 1832; (B) TEL AVIV 2026

1. WHILE MRS M VERED'S REMARKS ON EGYPTIAN EVENTS ARE OFTEN ILLUMINATING, WE DO NOT SHARE HER INTERPRETATION OF SADAT'S ALEXANDRIA SPEECH (REF B).

2. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED (REF A) OUR VIEW THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF SPEECH WAS LONG SECTION ON EGYPTIN/SOVIET RELATIONS, WHICH CONTAINED CLEAR WARNING TO MOSCOW SIMILAR TO THAT DIRECTED AT US AT END 1971.

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3. Q&A PERIOD, APPARENTLY SEEN BY MRS. VERED AS LIVELY

DEBATE ON CIVIL RIGHTS, WAS REGARDED HERE MERELY AS AIRING OF PAROCHIAL EDUCATIONAL GRIEVANCES OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. NONE OF BURNING POLITICAL ISSUES--USSR-ARAB RELATIONS, OIL AS WEAPON, HAYKAL OUSTER, EL AL-WAS RAISED. SADAT SPOKE CALMLY IN PATERNAL ACCENTS: "NOW THEN, MY BOY..." THIS, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED, AS MRS. VERED DOES, TO MEAN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN CONFRONTATION NO LONGER PRIORITY ISSUE IN STUDENT CIRCLES. EMBASSY BELIEVES STUDENTS ARE AMONG GROUPS MOST LIKELY TO VOICE VOLUBLE DISAPPROVAL WERE PRES SADAT EVER TO ALLOW NOTION TO GROW THAT GOE MORE CONCERNED WITH DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAN WITH GETTING ISRAELIS OUT OF ARAB LAND. FURTHER, STUDENTS ARE VITALLY INTERESTED IN EGYPTIAN-SOV RELATIONS, NOT JUST IN BILATERAL CONTEXT, BUT AS THEY AFFECT WHOLE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MRS. VERED'S ALLEGATION THAT "EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN GENERAL" HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF SADAT DECISION TO MOVE AWAY FROM USSR. ON THE CONTARY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN INEVITABLE AGITATION FROM FAR LEFT, NONE OF OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT "STUDENT IN GENERAL" HAVE TAKEN ISSUE WITH SADAT'S DIRECTION OF FOREIGN POLICY.

4. CONCERNING PARA 4 TEL AVIV REFTEL, SADAT DID NOT "CHOOSE" TO SPEAK TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR TACTICAL REASONS. HE WAS INAUGURATING TENTH CONFERENCE EGYPTIAN STUDENT UNION, WHICH THIS YEAR WAS HELD IN ALEXANDRIA. REPS OF ALL EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNIONS ATTENDED, TOGETHER WITH LARGE NUMBER GOE NOTABLES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, WAR, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AGREEMENTS, SPEECHES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO01969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0178
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740456/aaaabzab.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) CAIRO 1832; (B) TEL AVIV 2026
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI REACTIONS TO SADAT'S APRIL 3 APRIL SPEECH GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005